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**Bronx Council on the Arts, in Collaboration with the NYPL Bronx Library Center, NuyoRican School Original Poetry Jazz Ensemble and *Acentos* Bronx Poetry Showcase, present Poetry & Jazz on November 7th at the Bronx Library Center**

(Bronx – October 26, 2009) The Bronx Council on the Arts in collaboration with the NuyoRican School Original Poetry Jazz Ensemble and *Acentos* Bronx Poetry Showcase present an afternoon of poetry and jazz on Saturday, November 7th at the NYPL Bronx Library Center, 310 East Kingsbridge Road, Bronx, NY 10458. Admission is free and all are welcome.

The afternoon begins at 1:00pm when BCA's BX Indie Artist Series and *Acentos* Bronx Poetry Showcase present Bronx poets Urayoán Noel, Ada Limón, and Silvia Morales reading from their original works. An open mic will follow the readings but all poets must sign up in advance. *Acentos* poet Fish Vargas will host the event.

*Acentos* showcases nationally recognized Latino and Latina poets alongside emerging voices every second and fourth Tuesday of the month in a setting designed to foster an increased sense of community.

The afternoon continues at 4:30pm with the NuyoRican School Original Poetry Jazz Ensemble taking to the stage to perform their own unique blend of poetry and jazz.

NuyoRican School is a poetry jazz ensemble grounded in the idea of providing poetry in performance. The ensemble consists of some of today's most innovative poets, actors and musicians, fusing jazz and Latin Jazz with a poetry that provides a glimpse to some of United States' and Latin America's great poets with cultural affirmation serving as the thematic centerpiece of this fresh new ensemble. The ensemble features award-winning poets and internationally acclaimed musicians from the Salsa/Latin jazz genres.

Additional Activities related to this event are: the 2010 Access to Artists Festival at the Bronx Library Center featuring two poetry workshops for High School students on November 6th, a book reading and discussion of *The Latino Novel in the United States* with guest novelist Ernesto Quiñones on November 7th at the Bronx Library Center, and *Conjunto Libre* Holiday Performance/Dance on December 19th at Harlem's Salem United Methodist Church. Visit [www.nuyoricanschool.org](http://www.nuyoricanschool.org) for more information.

**Américo Casiano, Jr.**, Founder and President of the NuyoRican School Original Poetry Jazz Ensemble, received his BS from the State University of New York and his MPA from Baruch College-CUNY. He has had his poetry published in five anthologies: *Bum Rush the Page: Def Jam Poetry* (2001), *New Rains: Our Father/Ourselves* (1999), *Aloud: Voices From The Nuyorican Poets' Café* (1995), *The Next World: Poems By Third World Americans* (1976), and *Nuyorican Poetry* (1976). Américo is a 2003 *New York Foundation for the Arts* Poetry Fellow.

**Wendy Fernandez** is a vocalist who has sung with the Williams College Gospel Choir and the all-female acapella group known as The Gypsy Melodies. She has performed background vocals on recordings such as *Aunque me Voy* with Miami-based Cuban Salsa singer, Lazz; *Me Canse de Ti* with Obie Bermudez; and *Boricua Con Sabor Cubano* with Junior Gonzalez.

**Andy Gonzalez** plays Double bass and serves as musical director of *NuyoRican School*. He is considered among the legendary geniuses of the jazz/Latin jazz genres. He is the musical director of one of the best New York based Salsa bands: *Conjunto Libre*. With over 40 years of professional experience Andy has recorded and toured with some of the legendary jazz,



*Bronx Council on the Arts and NuyoRican School Original Poetry Jazz Ensemble present a poetry reading at Bronx Library Center on at 2:00pm and a jazz performance at 4:30pm on Saturday, November 7th. Admission is free and all are welcome. Poets pictured above (l. to r.) are Urayoán Noel, Ada Limón, and Silvia Morales. Performers pictured below (l. to r.) are: NuyoRican School founder Americo Casiano, Jr., Wendy Fernandez, Andy Gonzalez, and Alma Villegas.*

Photos courtesy of the artists.

Latin jazz, and Afro-Cuban orchestras among them *Dizzy Gillespie, Machito, Chico O'Farrill Afro-Cuban Orchestra, Charles Fambrough, Tito Puente & The Golden Latin Jazz All-Stars, Steve Turre, Eddie Palmieri and Jerry Gonzalez & The Fort Apache Band.*

**Ada Limón** has a Masters of Fine Arts from the Creative Writing Program at New York University, she has received fellowships from: Provincetown Fine Arts Work Center, New York Foundation for the Arts, and won the Chicago Literary Award for Poetry. Her first book, *lucky wreck*, was the winner of the 2005 Autumn House Poetry Prize. Her second book, *this big fake world*, was the winner of the 2005 Pearl Poetry Prize.

**Silvia Morales** is a BX Indie artist and a 2008 winner of the Bronx Writers' Center's 2008 winners Literary Fellowship and Residency Program grew up in the Bronx, the daughter of an artist who taught her to love the arts. She has long been a supporter and defender of arts programs in New York City public schools, having spent over ten years teaching high school English and Spanish. Teaching allowed her to encourage an appreciation of art and literature in countless students, an appreciation which she has also passed on to her two daughters. She currently teaches composition as an instructor in the City University of New York.

**Urayoán Noel** received his B.A., in English from Universidad de Puerto Rico (1998), his M.A. in Spanish, Stanford University, CA, and his PhD in Spanish from New York University (2008). He is the author of *Kool Logic / La lógica kool* (Bilingual Press, a 2006 *Books of the Year Selection* by *El Nuevo Día*) and *Boringkén* (Ediciones Callejón/La Tertulia, 2008). Other works include the artist's book *las flores del mall* (2000) and various text-sound collaborations with composer Monxo Lopez, some of which are featured on the DVD *Kool Logic Sessions* (Bilingual Press) and on the CD included with *Boringkén*.

**Alma Villegas** studied theatre at the University of Puerto Rico, at Bretton Hall College of the Arts, England and has earned a doctoral degree from New York University. Her credits as a playwright, director and producer include, among others, *Borinquen Mall: La Vitrina de las Americas, Don Pedro Vive, and Madre Selva: from Life to Spirit*. Currently she is working in a musical, *Mariyito: Fantasia en Bomba y Plena and Intimate Voices*, an interdisciplinary multi-media poetry performance.

**The Bronx Council on the Arts**, a private non-profit membership organization is the officially designated cultural agency of the Bronx. For over 45 years, BCA has been providing quality cultural services and arts programs to a multi-cultural constituency of our borough. The mission of the Bronx Council on the Arts is to encourage and increase the public's awareness and participation in the arts and to nurture the development of artists and arts and cultural organizations. For information about the Bronx Council on the Arts and its programs and activities, call 718-931-9500, e-mail [bronxart@bronxarts.org](mailto:bronxart@bronxarts.org), or visit [www.bronxarts.org](http://www.bronxarts.org).

**BCA's BX Indie Artist Series** is designed to encourage artists and arts collectives to explore new performance sites and to get closer to their audience thus increasing community participation and fostering an environment for the arts to thrive. As such, the series will accomplish a unique goal by filling a large gap in the community arts marketplace while giving a voice to quality professional performing artists of all disciplines.

*BX Indie is a project of the Bronx Council on the Arts funded by the Rockefeller Foundation. The event is also funded, in part, by the Special Arts Program, NYSCA, Poets & Writers, Inc., NYC Department of Cultural Affairs. Community Partners: Salem United Methodist Church, the Bronx Library Center, and the Bronx Hispanic Festival and friends.*

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